

Docket No.: 2000 P 07437 US 01

App. No.: 09/487,279 09/497,279 ^{pf}**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Claims 1-9, 12-20 and 24-27. Claims 1, 8, 12, 19, 24 and 26 have been amended. Claims 10-11 and 21-23 have been canceled without prejudice.

Rejections under U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-10, 12-21 and 24-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Christensen et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,360,336).

The Patent Office stated claims 11 and 22-23 are objected to as being dependent upon an allowable base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claims 1-10, 12-21 and 24-27. However, claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claims 10 and 11. Claims 24 and 26 have been similarly amended. Consequently, claims 1-9, 12-20 and 24-27 are believed allowable.

Conclusion

The application is respectfully submitted to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, notification to that effect is earnestly solicited. In the event the indication of allowability is withdrawn, applicants reserve the right to amend the claims back to the original form for further prosecution, without prejudice, disclaimer or estoppel. In the

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event that issues arise in the application that may readily be resolved via telephone, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned Attorney to facilitate prosecution of the application.

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Respectfully requested,

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